

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Outbreak of Infectious Diseases in the Gdynia-Gdansk-Sopot Area	DATE DISTR.	13 May 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Since the beginning of February 1954 there has been a serious incidence of scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria in the Gdynia-Gdansk-Sopot ("Three Towns") area. Patients are being sent to three hospitals, i.e.:

Scarlet fever	cases	to	the	hospital	at	Lebork
Measles	"	"	"	"	"	Wejherowo
Diphtheria	"	"	"	"	"	Gdynia.

2. The hospitals are overflowing with patients. Frequently a patient brought by ambulance has to be sent back home for lack of a vacant bed in the hospital. Since sanitary regulations prohibit infectious patients from remaining at home, they are sent back to hospital again, a vicious circle. The spread of the scarlet fever epidemic is further fostered by the fact that patients are discharged from hospitals before they have properly peeled, which causes further infection.
3. Outpatients' departments in enterprises in the "Three Towns" area lack first-aid dressings and materials. When a casualty has to be dealt with, the wound is dressed in cellulose cotton instead of cotton wool, and is given a paper bandage instead of a proper one. Whenever the patient returns to the outpatients' department for further dressings, he must bring his own bandage with him. Since bandages are not available in drug stores, people make their own from torn-up underwear or bed linen. Doctors are forbidden to prescribe cotton wool, bandages and iodine; none of these articles can be purchased in any of the chemists' shops in the "Three Towns" area.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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